



SHARPE JAMES
MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
07102

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JAMES TAKES ISSUE WITH COUNCIL OVER TABLING OF GRAFFITI ORDINANCE

Mayor Sharpe James today chided the Newark Municipal Council for tabling an ordinance that would have required owners of homes or businesses to remove graffiti from their property.

"Should we fight the war against the blight caused by graffiti or should we surrender?" he questioned, maintaining, "we are asking our residents and merchants to take pride in our city."

James who addressed the City Council action at a town meeting in the Central Ward Thursday night, claimed the ordinance is a proposal for the betterment of Newark.

"Government cannot wage the battle alone," he maintained, noting that graffiti does not exist in the suburban communities of Maplewood, West Orange or Springfield among others.

"And the reason there is far less graffiti in these towns is because the residents and shopowners will not allow it to remain on their buildings and properties," he explained.

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GRAFFITI AD 1

The governing body tabled the measure at its Wednesday meeting claiming it could bankrupt property owners who have to repeatedly remove the graffiti.

James stressed that Newarkers must assume the same responsibilities as their suburban neighbors. "Government cannot do the job alone. If we allow graffiti to stand it becomes an attractive nuisance and just encourages more disrespect for the property of others.

"There are businesses and individuals who have painted their buildings three and four times to cover graffiti, we need to solicit more people to become involved in this effort," he stated.